

JUVENILE TRAINING WORKSHOP I

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

ALEKSANDRA CHAUHAN

Dr. Aleksandra Chauhan is an assistant public defender in Richland County, Columbia, South Carolina. In 2015-2016, she obtained two federal grants to open a juvenile reentry program at the Richland Public Defender's Office. The Juvenile Reentry team that she supervises consists of a social worker, youth advocates and a civil attorney. It focuses on assisting youth involved in criminal justice system with tools to be successful upon their transition to the community. Dr. Chauhan received her Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at the University of South Carolina. During her doctoral studies she focused on researching the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the impact the UN Committee has on the implementation of the Convention across the globe. After obtaining her Ph.D., she studied law and in 2013 received her J.D. at the University of South Carolina School of Law. In addition to representing youth, Dr. Chauhan is on the Board of Directors of the Lawyers' Committee for Children's Rights and is a co-director of the Southern Juvenile Defense Center.

JOANNA DELANY

Joanna Delany (JoJo) is the Juvenile Justice Resource Attorney at the Children's Law Center, University of South Carolina School of Law. She is responsible for creating and conducting legal trainings for professionals working in the juvenile justice system such as defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, and Department of Juvenile Justice staff. She also conducts trainings for related child-serving professionals including social workers, counselors, and educators. She holds a B.F.A. in Studio Art from Augusta State University, and a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Prior to joining the Children's Law Center, she worked for the Fifth Circuit Public Defender's Office as an attorney for seven years, where she represented over 2,000 juveniles and adults in family and circuit courts. She currently serves on the Children's Law Committee of the South Carolina Bar.

HEATHER V. SCALZO

Heather was born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University and her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University, School of Law—Newark. As a third-year law student, she was active in the Child Advocacy Clinic and upon graduation was awarded the Sera Ramcharitar Memorial Prize for her work on behalf of women, children, and families. After law school, she worked as an attorney-advisor for the Social Security Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals before joining the Thirteenth Circuit Public Defender Office in Greenville, SC, where she has been a contract assistant public defender representing juveniles since June 2005. She has been working as a trainer for the Children's Law Center since December 2014. She is a member of the Southern Juvenile Defender Center Advisory Board and is a National Juvenile Defender Center (Juvenile Training Immersion Program) certified trainer. She is a member of the South Carolina Bar and the Greenville County Bar Association. In addition to practicing law, Heather is a volunteer with the Junior League of Greenville and a past member of its Board of Directors, and an advisor for the Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter at Furman University.